

ER 11-8942

7 NOV 1959

Honorable Paul J. Kilday
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Kilday:

We have received several inquiries concerning the letter being circulated by Mr. Kenneth Mahn of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles. Inasmuch as you have undoubtedly received inquiries concerning the subject in addition to the letter from Mr. Mahn, I am taking the liberty of writing you about this matter.

Khrushchev's comments about intelligence activities and the Central Intelligence Agency, in our mind, represent part of a deliberate campaign to discredit U. S. intelligence and thus leave a clearer field for Communist subversion. If there is a thaw in the Cold War, Khrushchev obviously would like to deprive the United States of one of its principal weapons for combating Communism. You have noted, of course, that in all of his talk about desiring peace, Khrushchev has stated that Moscow has not renounced and will not change its objective that all of the nations of the free world should and shall become Communist.

As far as Khrushchev's specific claims are concerned, I would point out first that one of his motives was to draw out any information that any official reply or action might supply. You recognize, of course, that from time to time agents are exposed and apprehended. This often happens to Soviet agents. These agents sometimes carry both money and ciphers known as one-time pads. These pads are useful solely for communications between that agent and his home base, and do not affect any other communication system. As far as we are concerned, Khrushchev has not got much comfort out of us in this respect; in fact, nothing comparable to what we have gained from Soviet defectors and agents.

41
DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒

☐ RECLASSIFIED

(EXECUTIVE

As far as the general communications systems of the U. S. Government are concerned, they are protected between sender and recipient by a variety of means, none of which were made suspect by Khrushchev's remarks. We are constantly calculating the protection given to such communications by the inherent security of the devices used and are constantly alert to interpret and exploit any information which would alter our calculations. Khrushchev's remarks were limited to matters which did not give us any new information of this sort.

In general, we would say that for the United States to react to Khrushchev's remarks as certain quarters have suggested would be to play into the hands of the Soviets.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

LBK:mfb 5 Nov 59

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - ER
- 1 - IG
- 1 - Legis. Counsel

Handwritten P.S.: I read with interest your comment to the press on this subject. It was excellent. AWD

CONCURRENCE

1/9/60

INSPECTOR GENERAL

6 NOV 1959

DATE

THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
501 HALL OF RECORDS
LOS ANGELES 12, CALIFORNIA

KENNETH HAHN SUPERVISOR SECOND DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
BUILDING SERVICES
COUNTY CLERK
JOHN WESLEY H. SMITH
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
MARSHAL'S OFFICE
MECHANICAL SERVICES
MUNICIPAL COURTS
PATRIOTIC HALL
PUBLIC DEFENDER
PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSION
RECORDER
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
SUPERIOR COURTS
MEMBER, COLLEGE COMMISSION
DIRECTOR, SANITATION DISTRICTS

October 2, 1959

The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senator
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

A most serious potential threat to the security and safety of the United States might be involved in certain statements made privately by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on his recent visit to Los Angeles, California.

I am calling this to your attention since I believe that the proper Congressional Committees of the Senate and House should thoroughly investigate this situation and assure the American people that the Central Intelligence Agency is operating effectively and efficiently or determine if there is any truth in Mr. Khrushchev's remarks so that corrective action can be taken immediately.

I was informed of the following facts by Mr. Victor Carter, a distinguished citizen of Los Angeles, a member of the Los Angeles City Board of Fire Commissioners, and President of Republic Studios. For your information, Mr. Carter was born in Russia and is thoroughly familiar and conversant with the Russian language.

Mr. Carter was a passenger, as the representative of the City of Los Angeles, in the automobile in which Mr. Khrushchev was taken on a tour of Los Angeles. Other passengers in the automobile were Soviet Ambassador Menshikov and United States Ambassador to the United Nations Henry Cabot Lodge.

During this trip, Mr. Khrushchev boasted to Mr. Lodge that the United States Central Intelligence Agency is a complete farce. He claimed that important diplomatic and military communications to and from the United States has been intercepted by Soviet agents.

Senator Johnson

-2-

October 2, 1959

Mr. Khrushchev told Mr. Lodge that recently when a secret message was sent by President Eisenhower to Prime Minister Nehru of India the Soviet government knew the contents of this message. He also stated that the Soviet government also intercepted a secret message from President Eisenhower to the Shah of Iran.

When Mr. Lodge diplomatically doubted Mr. Khrushchev's statements, the Soviet Premier offered to send copies of the documents to Mr. Lodge to prove his point.

Mr. Carter also said to me that Mr. Khrushchev stated that American intelligence agents of the Central Intelligence Agency, working in Europe and the Middle East are working for the Russian government also and that much of the money that is being sent to these agents is handed over directly by them to the Soviets.

After this statement, Mr. Khrushchev humorously inquired why does not the American government send the money directly to Russia, or save it and reduce American taxes?

Many of us realize that Mr. Khrushchev has made many wild, reckless, false statements and that he is fond of boasting. It is obvious that he may have made the statements to "needle" Mr. Lodge or to try to sow distrust in the Central Intelligence Agency and thus undermine the confidence of the American people.

One factor, however, makes this an unusually important matter for investigation and this is: Mr. Khrushchev did offer to present documentary proof of his statements to Mr. Lodge. (Obviously, we do not know if this was done).

I understand that more than one hundred million dollars is budgeted by Congress for intelligence work by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The reason I write this formal letter to you is that I believe it is absolutely imperative that the proper Congressional Committee thoroughly investigate this situation, which is of such overwhelming importance to our national security and defense.

I am certain that Mr. Carter will cooperate fully with the proper Federal authorities and provide much greater, detailed information on this vital security matter.

Certainly, the American people should know, through their elected representatives in Congress, whether we have a safe, secure Central Intelligence Agency. Obviously, it is vital to our

Senator Johnson

-3-

October 2, 1959

national security that our military and diplomatic messages are safe and are not being decoded or intercepted or handed over to any foreign government.

All of us remember how the United States Navy was able to break the Japanese code during World War II and as a result many important battles which proved to be decisive were won by the United States.

It is extremely important that our secret systems of communications be safeguarded and that maximum security precautions are taken for the welfare of our people.

I am enclosing Mr. Carter's address and I am sure that you will find him most cooperative.

Very truly yours,

KENNETH HANN
Supervisor, Second District

KH:es

Mr. Victor Carter
Board of Fire Commissioners
Los Angeles City Fire Department Headquarters
217 South Hill Street
Los Angeles 12, California